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LB 652

What they want to do is say any person in that prison who is over 18 will be taken out wholesale and put in the adult prison. Some of those people, despite their age, were found to be immature. The nature of the offense was such that they belong in that facility in Omaha and not in the adult prison population, where, as my friend "Baron" Tyson said, the chicken hawks would just be waiting at the gate for them to come in. Those are serious matters to me and the task force can be as angry as they choose, but when efforts are made to increase prison space, to lengthen sentences, I'm the one who beats my head against the wall session after session. Then the do-gooders, and I'm not talking about Senator Thompson, outside the Legislature want to say, hey, do it this way. Put some of these kids in prison who probably shouldn't belong there, and then they can say they scored a victory. Then I'm going to have to be here for the rest of the years that I'm in this Legislature fighting against increased prison cells for young people who shouldn't be locked up like that in the first place, and they will have gone home because they succeeded in what they wanted. They now have something to put in their resumes. They now get their award at their annual banquet because they have done a great work. But I see living, breathing children, and I know the families of some of these children. So since this is the approach that LB 652 is going to take, I just want to serve notice that my approach was known to the Judiciary Committee, and I'm sure the chairman, or I suspect, he may have made all of the people with these various bills know what my position was and what I intend to do. And any member on the committee who thinks that I'm misrepresenting...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...what I said and what was said in the committee is free to correct the record this morning. And I say, like they say at these weddings, or I understand they say, if anybody knows why these two shouldn't be joined together in holy matrimony, let him or her speak now or forever hold his or her peace. Speak this morning. Shame the devil who, analogously speaking, happens to be me. Correct the record if anything I said is incorrect. And I know that Senator Thompson will explain her amendment further, and if she sees no need to do so, then I'll turn on my light and ask some questions.